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ABSTRACT

One of a series of documents produced by a nationwide network of early childhood education specialists, teachers, parents, and Head Start staff, the handbook helps parents and teachers work together to enhance the development of basic educational skills in young children. Along with providing parent assistance in enriching home learning experiences, the handbook provides school-related information on required immunization records and Head Start and elementary school enrollment. The document concludes with information about programs for parents and a list of Dolch sight words for pre-primer through second grade level students. (LH)

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How To Get To School From Your House

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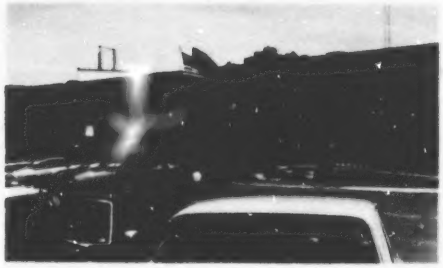
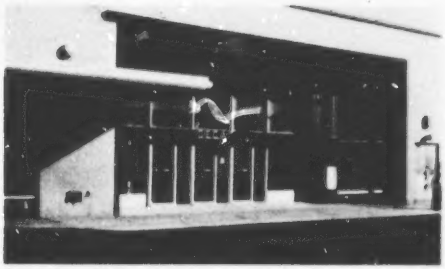
A Parent Involvement Guide



School District of City of Erie
Administrative Office
1511 Peach Street
Phone: 871-6200
School district offices—school board meetings



GECAC
18 West 9th Street
Phone: 459-4581

Erie County Library
35 Perry Square
Phone: 452-2333
Open six days a week—no charge for library card

Erie Historical Museum
356 West 6th Street
Phone: 453-5811
No fee (Art Center next door has art classes for children; also Planetarium—fee charged)

Erie Zoological Society
653 Shunpike Road
Phone: 864-4091
Located in Southern Erie—picnic and play area—petting zoo—fee charged except Saturday mornings—no bus service to zoo

How To Get To School From Your House

Prepared and Illustrated by
ESTHER SIAS and LYDIA REYNOLDS
Parents and Educators of Chattanooga, Tennessee

Edited by
ANGIE LEWKOWICZ
BES Parent Specialist

Greater Erie Community Action Committee
Child Development Unit
18 WEST 9th STREET
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16501

Materials developed for the
Erie Basic Educational Skills Project (BES) /
Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC)
Erie, Pennsylvania

Dear Parents:

Schools are at their best for learning when everyone—teachers, students, and parents—work together! We are proud of the many accomplishments already achieved for the children of Erie.

Parents are to be praised for the many contributions they make to our schools. Parents educate children long before they become school age, by instilling important values and skills. Being involved in the education of our children is well worth the investment in time. Taking active participation in school affairs assures quality education so important in today's complex and changing world.

Simply stated, children depend on us—parents and educators alike. We are fortunate in the Erie community in having parents and teachers involved in the process of education. Through a myriad of activities and projects, we have worked together to affect the education of all children.

It is indeed a pleasure to continue our work with parents. We ask each of you to stay actively involved and to invite your friends to join us. Parents and teachers working together will assure the continuation of quality education in our school system. Our cooperative efforts will allow us to attain the highest goals for all of our children.

Sincerely,

R. Benjamin Wiley
Executive Director, GECAC

Thomas C. O'Rourke
Superintendent of Schools

The BES Project was funded by the Administration of Children, Youth, and Families and is a cooperative effort between GECAS/Head Start and the Erie School District.

The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Administration of Children, Youth, and Families; GECAC, or the Erie School District; and no official endorsement by these agencies should be inferred.

How To Get To School From Your House

INTRODUCTION

The Erie *Basic Educational Skills* (BES) *Program* has been helping parents and teachers work together to enhance the development of basic educational skills. This program involved four areas:

- *Curriculum*—to create a positive learning environment which encourages mastery of basic skills
- *Parent Involvement*—to assist parents in providing home learning experiences
- *Teacher Attitudes*—to show how school curriculum fits into the overall goals of both home and school
- *Continuity*—to provide smooth transitions between Head Start, kindergarten, and elementary grades (K-4)

We learned that what parents do—

- helps children WANT to learn;
- encourages interests and skills which build school success; and
- reinforces school experiences.

We found that PARENTS ARE THE NUMBER ONE TEACHERS of their children! When home teachers and schoolteachers work together, positive learning experiences occur, which improve children's acquisition of basic educational skills.

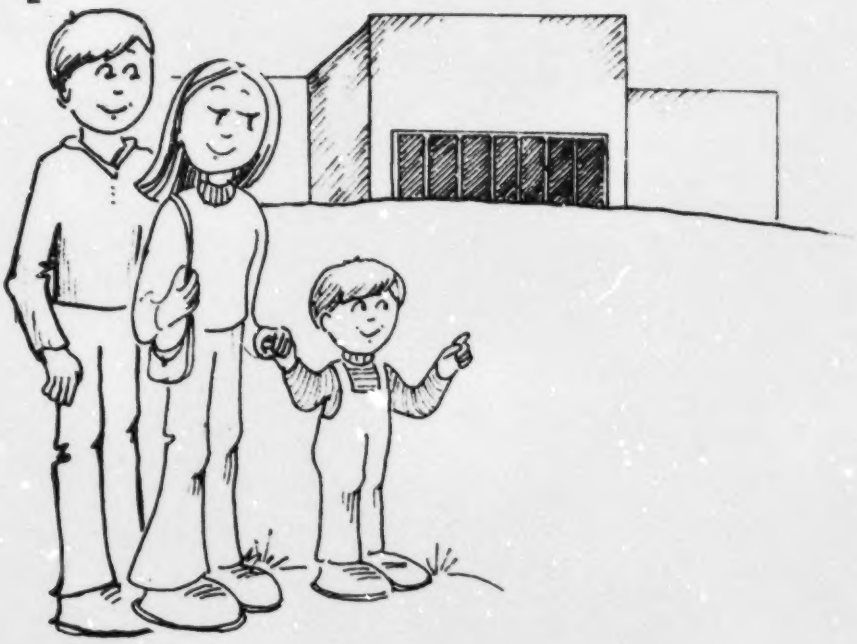
This booklet is to encourage ALL parents to be better teachers of their children. It is the desire of the BES staff that this booklet will assist the readers in helping their children to—GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE!

Angie Lewkowicz,
BES Parent Specialist

HOW TO GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE

When children go to school, parents do, too!
Parents want children to do well in school.
This book can help you help your children
so they can get the most out of school.
It can help your children—AND YOU—
GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

2



Parents help children WANT to go to school
when they say,

"Someday you may go to school.
You will have a nice teacher.
The teacher will help you read and count.
You will look at pretty books.
School will be fun."

Children learn from parents and older brothers
and sisters about school.
Knowing school is a good place to go helps
children want to—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

Parents help when they send
children to school with healthy bodies
and healthy minds. Children need—

- plenty of sleep,
- plenty of exercise, and
- good food (vegetables, fruits, meats).

Healthy children enjoy playing.
If children are cross, it may be because
they need more sleep, more exercise—
or less sweets.
Seeing children are healthy and happy helps them—
GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

4

Parents teach children thousands of words.
The more words children know,
the better they do in school.
Helping children learn words and word meanings
is the most important thing parents can do
to help children learn to read. Parents can—

- name things (everything has a name),
- get children to ask questions,
- give step-by-step directions, and
- S-T-R-E-T-C-H children's sentences.

TALKING WITH and LISTENING TO children helps them—
GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

HOW TO GET CHILDREN READY TO GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE

Parents provide many experiences for children.
They can take children for walks,
to visit friends, and sometimes to the store.
Experiences give parents and children
something to TALK ABOUT.
If you cannot go a lot of places,
get books from the library.
Learning from experiences and books helps
children—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

Parents can see that children
have safe places to run, jump, and play.
Playing makes strong muscles and
makes hands and eyes work together.
Good coordination helps children do well in school.
Playing with other children helps them
learn to take turns.
Seeing children are developing physically
helps them—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

Parents help when they teach children to—

- care for themselves and clothing;
- carry out simple home tasks (set table, empty garbage, make bed); and
- obey home rules.

Doing these things at home helps children do these things at school—care for themselves, do schoolwork, and obey school rules.

Giving children responsibilities helps them—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

8

Before children enter first grade, parents can help them—

- use pencils, crayons, and SAFE scissors;
- count to 15 and know numbers to 10;
- learn about colors, shapes, sizes, and positions (over, under, behind, top, bottom);
- recognize name and some letters;

and, when READY

- read their very first words.

Enrolling children in Head Start and/or kindergarten helps children learn these things and helps them—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

HOW TO GET CHILDREN STARTED TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE

Parents give first graders a good start when they teach simple directions.
First graders need to know—

- right hand and left hand;
- top, bottom, left and right sides of a paper;
- first row, next row, last row—beginning and end of a row; and
- how to draw a line under a letter, word or picture.

Knowing teacher-type directions helps children—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

10

Parents can help first graders who are learning—

- names of letters (in order and out of order),
- printing first and last names in upper-case (capital) and lower-case (small) letters.

In second grade, children will learn to use cursive writing.

Asking the school for samples of printing and writing styles can help children—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

Parents can help teach new words.
Children who are learning to read need to
see new words MANY, MANY times.
New words are listed in the back of each reader.
Ask the teacher for the DOLCH list of words
that EVERY CHILD MUST KNOW.
Teach only a few words at a time and
keep the learning of words "fun," so
children will WANT TO READ.
Helping first- and second-grade children learn
new words helps them—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

12

Parents can use games, kitchen items, and trips to the store to teach basic math skills such as—

- counting to 100 by 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's;
- writing numbers to 100 or more;
- telling which of two numbers is greater or less;
- adding and subtracting (learn basic facts);
- measuring, weighing, telling time;
- talking about fractions, shapes; and
- learning about money.

Knowing these things helps children—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

HOW TO HELP CHILDREN HELP THEMSELVES TO GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE

Parents and teachers expect
older children to do more for themselves.
Parents can see that children
develop good work habits and
encourage them to keep up with schoolwork.
Even older children can use help with—

- multiplication and division facts,
- understanding new words, and
- learning spelling words.

Keeping up with what children are learning helps them—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

Parents can talk about school with older children. They may ask—

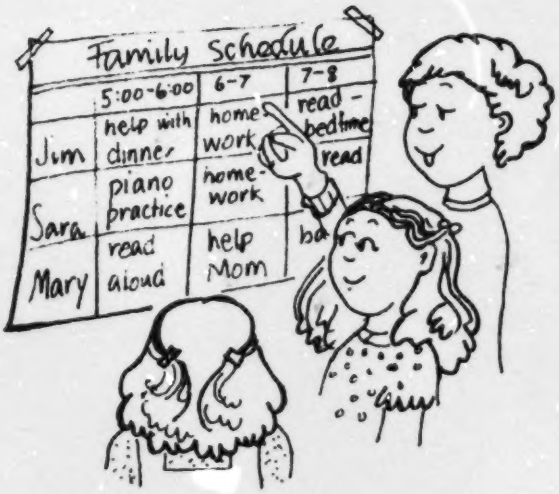
"What are you studying in math?"

"What are you reading about?"

"What is something new you learned today?"

Parents should set a time to be used for homework (a quiet time without TV). If children have no homework, this time can be used for reading. Planning a time and place for study helps children—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.



Parents can help improve grades by having children—

- make a schedule and stick with it;
- set time limits on getting work done;
- use eyes, ears, and hands when studying—see, say, and WRITE it!

Having children discuss what they are learning helps them remember.

Giving good reasons for learning causes them to work faster and with more interest.

Encouraging children makes them want to learn more and to—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

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Parents can EXPECT children to
do well in school.
They let them know this when they say good
things about school, teachers, homework,
report cards, attendance, and DISCIPLINE.
Parents should EXPECT children to understand
school rules and to obey them.
One rule is—"You can do what you want, so long
as you do not harm anyone or
stop anyone from learning."
Talking about what you expect helps children—
GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

HOW TO GET HELP FROM THE SCHOOL

Parents can get to know the principal and
teacher early in the school year.
Parents can give children more help when
they know what happens in school.
Teachers can better offer help when
they feel they can call parents.
Parents may call the school office
or send a note to the teacher anytime.
Working closely with the principal and
teachers shows YOU are interested and can—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

Parents OR teachers may request conferences.
To make an appointment, call the school office or send a note.
Give the teacher time to prepare for the conference.
Parents may arrange to visit the classroom anytime after the first month of school.
Give the principal time to make arrangements—usually, this will be the next day.
Visiting the school shows children you can—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

Parents should expect report cards to
show achievement at grade level.
Decisions to promote or retain are made in
the best interests of children.
If a report card reflects a problem,
find out from the teacher WHAT MAY BE DONE
before talking with children.
Perhaps you may want to see children's work,
sign it, and send it back to school.
If there is a question, be sure to—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

20

Parents who believe their children
may have special physical, behavioral, or
learning problems may ask for help.
The school psychological services may give
help to three-year-olds in some cases;
in other cases, at school age.
Head Start offers help to preschool children
with medical, dental, vision, speech, language,
and adjustment problems.
Getting special help means you need to—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN SCHOOL

Plan to make some social visits to school. School open houses and special meetings help answer questions about:

- The school's ideas about education
- Special reading, math, or other programs
- School policies about homework, absences, and tardies

Parents may want to volunteer to serve on school committees. These committees help make key decisions for many school programs. Showing interest in meetings and committees can help you (and your neighbors)—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

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Some schools have a PARENT ROOM.
Parents may wait there for children or use it as a social center.
Parents need to say GOOD things about school in the parent meetings or parent room.
If there are questions, or rumors, talk with the principal.
Talk should center on helping children.
Feeling comfortable in the parent room can help you want to—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

Parents are good school volunteers.
Offer to help if you have time.
Be willing to help where needed—in the office,
the library, the cafeteria, the playground,
or in the classrooms.
The school nurse often needs help, too.
If your time is limited, offer to make things
at home or to be "on call" for special times.
Offering to volunteer helps you—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

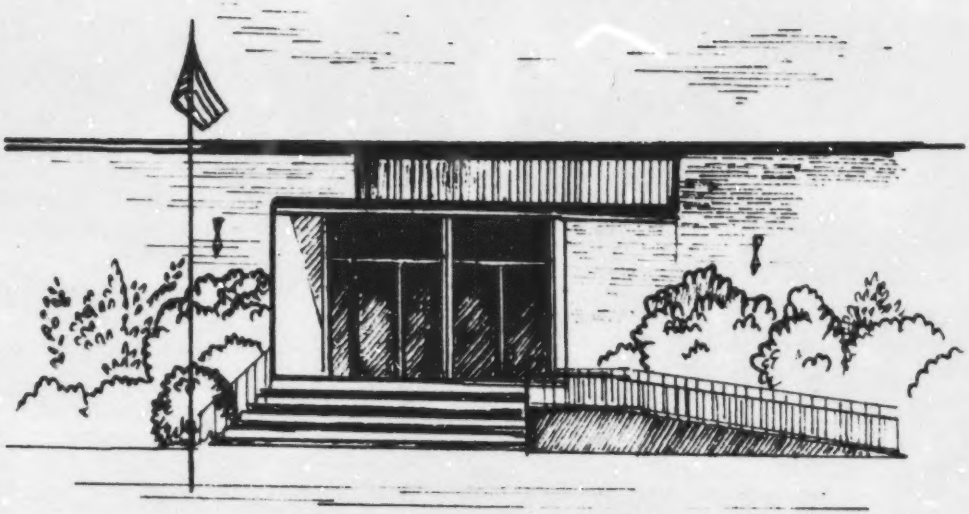
One way parents may volunteer at home
is to be a "Block Parent."
One parent in each block is asked to put a
special sign in the window.
If children are in need of help,
they may go to these marked houses.
The "Block Parent" will call the school
or police or fire department—or parent.
Be sure children know all the "Block Parents"
along their route to school.
Volunteering to be a "Block Parent" helps
when you cannot—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

HOW TO GET SUPPORT FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Parents should join school groups for the
school's sake and for their children's sake.
In Head Start, parents should attend the
Center Parent Committees and Policy Councils.
In elementary schools, parents may join the
PTA or PTO.
Parents get acquainted with each other
and with teachers, hear fine speakers, and
work together to improve the school.
Joining parent groups can help you—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.



Parents may attend School Board meetings.
The School Board makes decisions for all schools
in the School District of the
City of Erie, Pennsylvania.
These meetings are held in the evening on the
second Wednesday of each month at the
Administration Building.
Ask the principal for the time and address.
Knowing how decisions are made helps you—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

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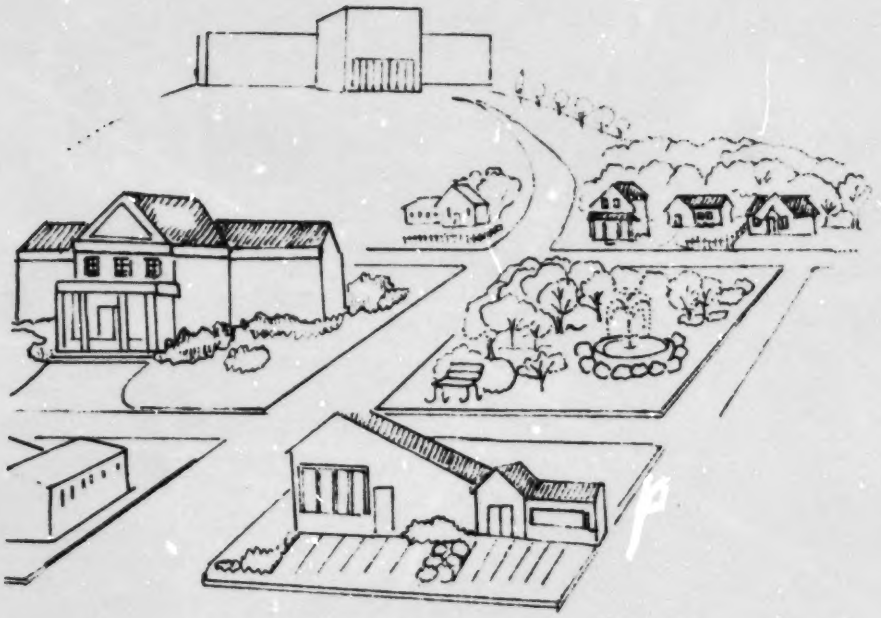
Parents are invited to meet with the
Superintendent of the City of Erie Schools.
A special breakfast is held at 8:30 a.m.
on every third Thursday of each month
at the Administration Building.
Each Friday, the Superintendent holds a
news conference to keep the community in touch
with what is happening in the schools.
Supporting the superintendent and his staff
makes for better schools and helps you—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.



Parents are the best public relations people
schools can have. When good things are said
about schools, communities want to do more.
Some communities help through an
"Adopt-A-School" Program.
A business chooses to "adopt" a certain school
and do for that school special things—
sponsor special events and encourage employees
to serve as volunteer tutors.
Saying good things about schools can help you—

GET TO SCHOOL FROM YOUR HOUSE.

and, help others get to school, too!

Public School Enrollment ..... 1511 Peach Street
Phone 814/871-6200

All children between ages six and twenty-one may attend public schools. This includes exceptional children. Children between the ages of eight and seventeen are required to attend school—unless legally excused.

School Records

Parents should give accurate and complete information for school records. Parents may request to see records or data which pertains to their children and to ensure records are not inaccurate or misleading.

Attendance and Tardiness

Parents have the responsibility to see children attend school unless absence is for a legal reason. When school is missed, children must return with an *excuse signed by a parent.*

Constant tardiness is a major problem to children's education. It also is a poor habit that causes problems later in life. Children must be to school on time.

Kindergarten Enrollment

Children must be five before September 1 to enroll in kindergarten. Parents (or guardians) must register children and provide a *birth certificate* and *immunization record.*

Pennyslvania law requires children be immunized as follows:

Diptheria	3 doses
Tetanus	3 doses
Polio	3 oral trivalent
Measles	1 dose
Rubella (3 Day Measles)	1 dose
Mumps	1 dose

Other needed information is:

a. Address, zip code, home telephone number
b. Name of father, his birthplace, occupation, and place of employment
c. Name of mother (maiden name), her birthplace, occupation, and place of employment
d. Names and birthdates of all children in family (beginning with eldest)

First-Grade Enrollment

Children must be six before September 1 to enroll in first grade. If not previously enrolled in kindergarten, parents must provide the above information (see kindergarten) when entering first grade.

Exceptions For Age Requirements

Those kindergarten or first-grade children with birthdays within the month of September must be tested by Pupil Personnel Services to be considered for early enrollment.

Head Start Program ..... 18 West 9th Street
Phone 814/459-4581

Head Start serves 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children in a center or home program. It provides medical, dental, vision, speech, language, psychological, educational, and social services.

The program operates September through June, with recruitment each May. Families may ask for enrollment anytime. Most families must have incomes within the guidelines. Handicapped children are welcomed.

Head Start works closely with the elementary schools. Parents and children visit kindergarten classrooms in the spring. Parents are encouraged to send the HEAD START PRESCHOOL PROFILE to kindergarten. The profile gives information about child, family, health, social development, and academic skills, such as:

1. Knows birthday, address, telephone number
2. Recognizes name, colors, shapes, numerals, upper-case and lower-case letters
3. Can skip, hop, tiptoe, walk on beam, hold pencil, use scissors, trace, draw lines, string beads, work 12-piece puzzle, count

PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITY CARDS are used to help parents teach children basic skills. Cable TV in Erie also has a program based on these cards.

Head Start cooperates with other organizations to inform parents of courses and materials on child development, such as—*Exploring Parenting, STEP, Creative Parenting,* and *Getting Involved*.

Programs For Parents

For information on *Exploring Parenting*, *Getting Involved*, and *STEP*, contact the Head Start Program. *Creative Parenting* is offered by the Hamot Medical Center. Information about other courses and materials on child development may be obtained from Head Start and other community organizations.

Parent Rooms

Several schools have special rooms for parents. These rooms for parents use—to hold meetings, to have craft workshops, to make curriculum materials, or for meeting informally with other parents. Parent rooms are presently located at Burton, Edison, Pfeiffer-Burleigh, and at the Booker T. Washington Center/Head Start Program. Booker T. Washington provides a community parent room with all invited.

Parent/Child Activity Cards

Parent/Child Activity Cards are used in the Head Start Program and at Burton and Pfeiffer-Burleigh Schools. Cable TV in Erie has a program (developed by BES) based on these parent/child cards. Check local listings for viewing schedule.

Adopt-A-School

Burton Elementary School and Hammermill Paper Company participated in the Adopt-A-School Program during the 1981-32 school year. During the year, Hammermill supported student achievement by providing T-shirts for student council and honor students. Representatives from Hammermill spoke with parent groups, explaining the program and soliciting parent input. Future plans include awards and outdoor trash containers to encourage student participation in keeping school areas clean and an increase in employee/student activities.

DOLCH WORDS AS PRESENTED IN HARPER & ROW

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WORDS IN TEXTS
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seven
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sing
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start
ten
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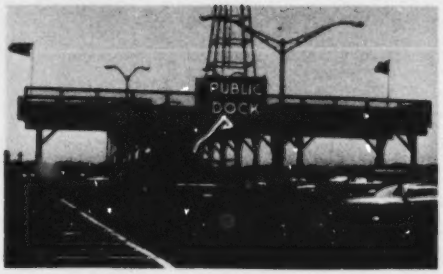
together
which
write
yellow
yes

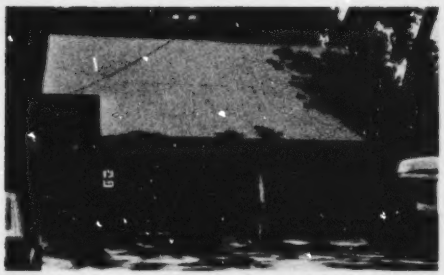
NOT

Presque Isle State Park
Peninsula Drive
Phone: 833-5438

Ferry
(Foot of State Street
Operates summer and early fall—fee required

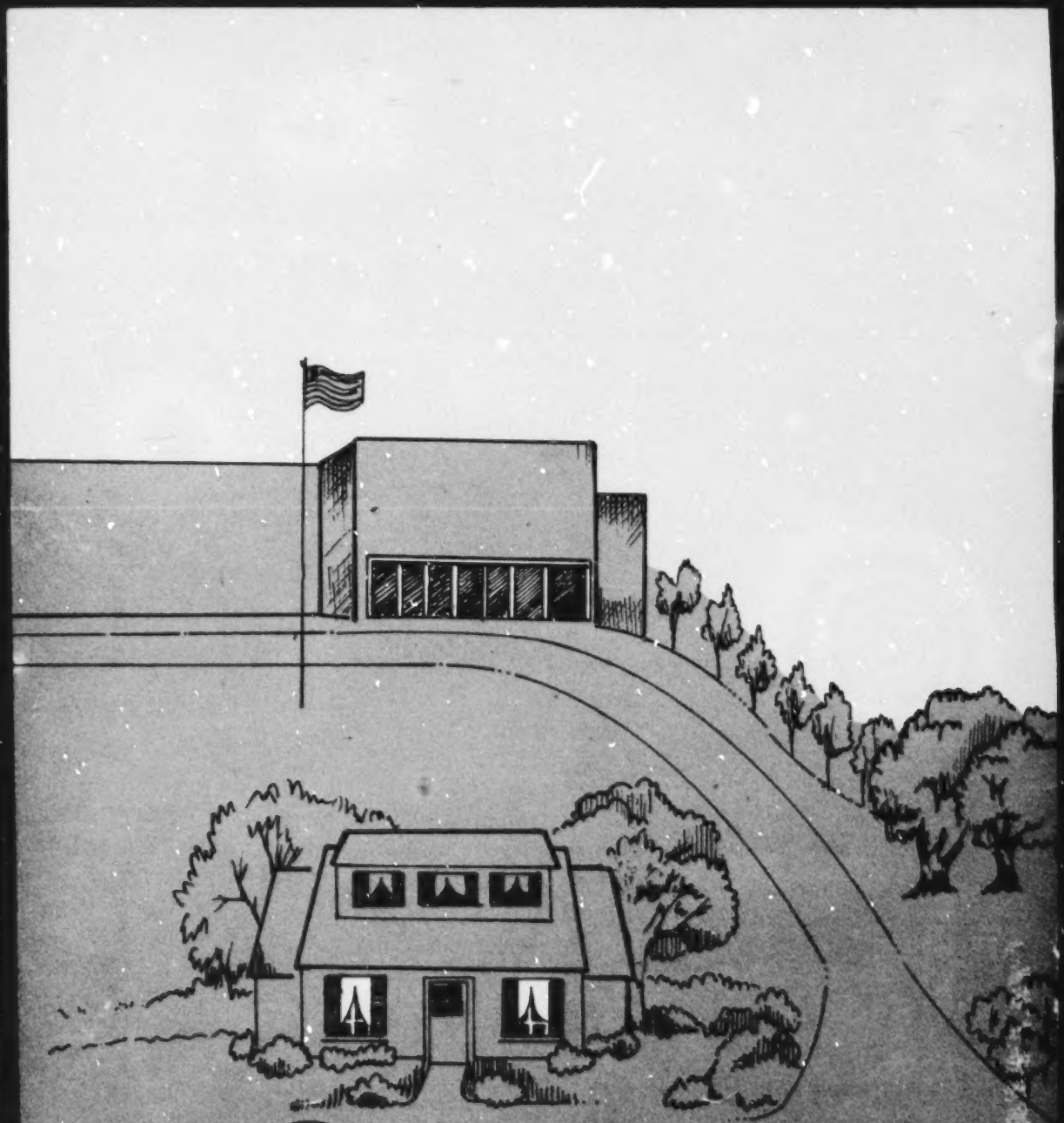


Public Dock
(Foot of State Street)
Observation deck open to public—popular fishing spot



Nature Center
(Located by Beach #2)
No charge to enter—nature hikes can be scheduled

Hamot Medical Center
201 State Street
Phone: 455-6711



Erie Basic Educational Skills Project /
Greater Erie Community Action Committee
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